

*Routine Proceedings*

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but the hon. member will have to understand that before I move with consent motions in the House, it takes a great deal of discussion involving a great number of people.

I cannot, on my own, stand in this House and do one-half or one-quarter of something I thought we had agreed to. At this point I have no choice but to withdraw the unanimous consent request.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** So ordered.

On a point of order, the hon. parliamentary secretary to the government House leader.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I think you will find unanimous consent for the following request to revert for a few moments to Statements by Ministers so that we can allow the Minister of Veterans Affairs to make a brief statement regarding Remembrance Day.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, it is important that we seek clarification that not only will the Minister of Veterans Affairs have an opportunity to make a statement—and we are most anxious to hear his statement—but that the Official Opposition and the New Democratic Party spokespersons will also have an opportunity to make statements. That was my understanding of the agreement. In other words, we will just follow the usual traditions of the House.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, Statements by Ministers usually mean Statements by Ministers followed by statements from the other two parties, and that is what I intended.

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**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order. I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Rideau Hall  
Ottawa

November 8, 1990

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Charles Gonthier, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 8th day of November, 1990, at 5.15 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to a bill.

Yours sincerely,  
Judith LaRocque  
Secretary to the Governor General

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians will know that Sunday, November 11, is Remembrance Day in Canada. In fact most of the civilized world honours this particular day.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege, as the Minister of Veterans Affairs, to remind the House and all Canadians that next Sunday, November 11, is Remembrance Day.

[English]

It has been very heartening in recent years to learn that attendance continues to rise at Remembrance Day ceremonies across the country. On November 11, let us hope that once again Canadians of all generations will join members of our 600,000-strong veteran population in paying tribute to those who served their country in time of war.

The year 1990 has given us many reasons to be especially thankful for those who went to war on our behalf. This year we celebrate the Battle of Britain. Canadian pilots were in the Hurricanes and in the Spitfires which 50 years ago won this great battle, giving the allies time to regroup. This was a major psychological victory for the allies who, up to this point in the war, had little to be happy about.

This spring the people in The Netherlands turned out in the hundreds of thousands in ceremonies all across the country to hail the return of those young Canadian soldiers who had liberated their land 45 years before. Every Canadian can reflect in the glory of the adulation showered on our veterans. The streets of cities and villages alike were adorned with maple leaves and signs emblazoned with "Welcome back, Canadian liberators" were everywhere. The Dutch people sang *O Canada* with great gusto. They have never forgotten the sacrifices and the achievements of the youngsters from across the Atlantic 45 years before. It was a pilgrimage of considerable pride.